

February 7, 1975

take in the original bill. I have that particular thing in the committee report so that there is no doubt of the intent. I move it be adopted. It has to be adopted regardless of what you do with the bill.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the Syas amendment to LB 12? Record your vote. Record Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, on motion to adopt.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted. We are now considering LB 12. Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: LB 12 is an outgrowth of an interim study committee of Senator Thone Johnson and the Executive Board this past Summer and Fall. It was an interim study considering annual sessions and the problems, if there are any, of having annual sessions. This was one bill that came from the interim study resolution. The Executive Board adopted it. Senator Thone Johnson presided over the hearings in which we heard from the public, we heard from people who are interested in government, the Secretary of State, and others. This legislative bill, which becomes a constitutional amendment, would be voted on in the Fall of 1975 at the regular general election. It calls for the legislative terms ending and beginning so that it would be the second Monday of December of 1976, if this constitutional amendment is passed by the electorate, by the voters of Nebraska. The new beginning of a session in 1976 would take place on the second Monday of December at 10:00 A.M. in which the Legislature would have its beginning and start that day, and possibly be in session just for the one day. That would be so that Nebraska could be, as many states have changed over the years, so that they may put bills into the hopper and have those bills ready for printing, ready for discussion. It would also give the opportunity for the Legislature to elect its officers and then to recess itself until a date that the new Speaker of the Legislature, at that time on the first day, second Monday, would probably state that we would meet on January 6th, or 7th, or 4th and we'd take up our regular session and be able to start on the 6th or 7th of January with regular hearings that same afternoon. In other words, there would be three principle goals to the constitutional amendment. To meet and elect officers, to put bills into the hopper and see that they're printed and be able to discuss them over the three weeks that you are waiting, and the third and probably most important thing would be that the session could take up immediately in January as the second day of the session and have a regular, constituted hearings take place in the afternoon, rather than wasting these afternoons that we have seen take place for so many years. In this particular session we have been wasting many afternoons. We'd come here and meet for 15 minutes, 20 minutes, sometimes we'd meet an hour, and then in the afternoon we wouldn't have a thing to do because we had to wait until the public notices went out. We had to wait sometimes as much as two or three weeks before the committees could be activated. So Mr. President I believe that the interim study committee has a good constitutional amendment. I hope that the Legislature allows this to be placed on the ballot and have our state be able to process and speed things along. At least take out some of the slowness in our past sessions. I move that LB 12 be advanced to General File . . . or from General File to E & R initial.